Studying insect communities in New Guinea - the parataxonomist approach

By

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New Guinea Binatang Research Center

- 11 years of ecology research on PNG
- Main station and 2 field laboratories,
- 15 parataxonomists, 3 students,
- 30 village assistants
Various research projects

Host specificity of caterpillars

60,000 caterpillars collected and 20,000 reared from 90 tree species
Host specificity of *Cerambycidae*

2,500 beetles reared from 3,000kg of timber from 10 tree spp.
Host specificity of fruit flies

8,000 fruit flies reared from 600 kg of fruits from 170 plant spp.
Community structure and beta-diversity of rainforest ants

ground foraging and understory ants collected by 4 different methods in more than 100 plots on 6 localities across PNG
Light trap

25,000 moths from 1,500 species surveyed at several sites in New Guinea mainland and its islands
Awareness program

School lectures (audiences 1500)

Leaflets production and distribution, over 100 leaflets, hundreds of reprints
Primary and Secondary Plots 1 hectare 100 m x 100 m

Insect Herbivores (Lepidoptera) –
species diversity, community structure and host specificity

→ Caterpillar/mine rearing
→ Plant voucher collecting
→ Wood sample/DNA leaf area (frame)
Primary and Secondary Plots 1 hectare 100 m x 100 m

Wood for bark beetle rearing

-It's an ongoing project-
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